



Update from Stephen

As we head into the final stretch of this academic year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on all the incredible achievements and growth I've witnessed at The Milestone School.

Our pupils and staff continue to amaze me with their dedication, resilience, and enthusiasm for learning. Whether it's a pupil's mastery of a new skill or a newfound confidence in something they never thought possible, each step forward is a testament to the hard work of both pupils and staff.

A Spotlight on Success

This term, we've had some truly fantastic highlights:

- **Autism Acceptance Week:** This week was truly an amazing success! We created an inclusive environment where all pupils could celebrate. We saw fantastic participation in activities like colour day, story massage, the silent disco, colour walk and colour celebration (sorry about your brightly coloured child returning home, I hope it and they came out in the wash!). The positive energy and enthusiasm were contagious and staff worked tirelessly to ensure every pupil felt included. We're incredibly proud to have raised a significant amount of money to support and help individuals with Autism.

- **Exam Success:** A huge admiration for all our pupils who recently took exams! Sitting exams can be such a daunting experience, for our pupils and the courage and **BRAVE**ry they displayed in tackling these challenges is truly commendable. We are incredibly proud of their dedication and hard work throughout the year and we look forward to celebrating their achievements with them soon.

A Message of Thanks

Finally, I want to express my sincere gratitude to each and every one of you, our dedicated families. Your unwavering support and collaboration are instrumental in creating a positive and nurturing environment for our pupils to thrive.

Here at The Milestone School, we believe in celebrating every individual's unique journey. Together, we can ensure all our pupils reach their full potential.

With warm regards,



Stephen Dowell Headteacher



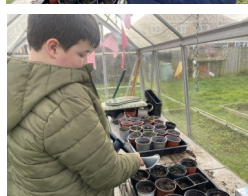
Department Updates



In **Foundation** we have been working very hard all year on transitions. For many of our pupils, transitioning from one place to another can be extremely challenging. Unfortunately this can mean that they miss out on some valuable learning experiences. We are proud to share some photos of pupils who have overcome these challenges and gained frequent opportunities to try new things in some of our many, fantastic facilities.



We have lots of budding gardeners in **Middle** Department this term, who are engaging in our 'Green Fingers' topic. The pupils are working hard and enjoying their learning. As the sun is now shining, they have been able to access their learning outside of the classroom. Some classes have been working at the school allotment and others have been planting around the school grounds. Fab work Middle Department! The children are very excited about the trips we have planned for the rest of the term!



It has been a busy term in the **Senior** Department. Classes in KS4 have been taking part in outdoor learning and have made s'mores and dampers. They have also completed a project with The Music Works and are writing a Milestone song. Pupils have also engaged with work experience in the Peel Centre in The Quays and taken part in football and rugby matches.

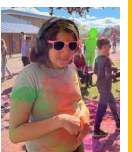
Elsewhere across the department, classes have been learning all about plants, what they need to survive and how to plant seeds. They have learnt about World War 2, specifically about evacuation and have been accessing the local community to focus on life skills. S5 opened their own café and the young people were taking orders and waiting for their food.

Autism Acceptance Week

This year we celebrated Autism Acceptance week, we had such a fabulous week! From silent discos to crazy coloured hair. We explored an array of different exotic animals and every colour of spaghetti during our sensory sessions. We ended the week with the most



amazing colour celebration. A massive thank you to everyone who made this week possible and for every single donation we received the support we have had has been amazing!



Communication

Communication is a vital part of the Milestone School. This term we are focusing on modelling and embedding core vocabulary in our complex needs classes. By focusing on these core words, we hope to support pupils to be able to refuse/reject, make choices, become more social and use communication within a range of learning activities. This is being done in a total communication style with a focus on the modelling through symbol based resources, signing and concise spoken language. Some of our pupils may use a range of other individual resources like iPads



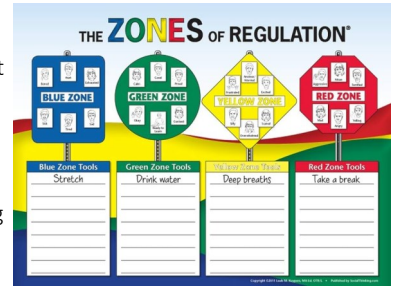
(using the Grid app), Go Talks or objects of reference.

Core boards are a key feature in our school communication books. Communication books combine a core vocabulary page with fringe vocabulary pages to create a tailored and functional device for communication. Signing of core vocabulary give pupils another option. When symbol based resources are not available, knowing key signs helps both parties communicate effectively. Using this core vocabulary, core board and signing at home will help create a consistent communication environment for your child. **Please speak to your child's teacher if you would like to implement core boards or signing at home.**

Personal Development

Personal Development is embedded in everything we do at The Milestone School to ensure that the pupils are regulated, happy and ready to learn. Therefore, half an hour every morning from the moment the pupils enter the classroom is designated to attend to the pupils individual needs and a lot of the work and activities that take place are taken from our bespoke PSHE pathway, including self awareness.

We have seen a positive impact and difference in the pupil's behaviour and attitude to learn since implementing this time. This also gives pupils the opportunity to discuss anything with their trusted class team and develop their understanding of emotions, which link in with our Thrive approach and Zones of Regulation.



If you would like more information about the zones of regulation, please contact your child's class teacher via Class Dojo.



Tuesday 4th June, 5.30-6.30pm
ALL WELCOME

School Council & Eco School

Last term, the School Council representatives were busy selling raffle tickets for our annual Easter egg draw. We had 6 prizes this year, and we are pleased to announce we made £86! The pupils in the School Council are currently thinking about what they would like to put their fundraising towards. Thank you for your support with this raffle.

The swap shop opened its doors last term, with lots of pupils coming along to take home some new items. This was a huge success, and there will be another opportunity this term for pupils to come and take a look at the pre-loved items they may like.



Careers

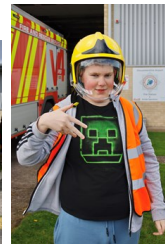
As usual, there has been lots of things going on with our careers programme this term. KS4 visited Kohler Mira, Cheltenham for a mock interview experience. They got involved throughout the day and impressed the local employers.



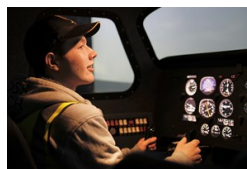
S9, S10 and Hawks had an Employer Encounter visit from The Dogs Trust. They found out about the charity, various job roles and how to keep safe around dogs. S1 were also lucky enough to get some cuddles with Benny the dog!



KS4 visited Gloucestershire Airport, FLY2HELP to learn about aviation and the fire emergency services.



A converted double decker London bus came to school, the 'I Can, I Am' bus. S2, S8, S9 and S11 took part in making their own pizzas in the built in kitchen downstairs then went upstairs to have a motivational chat about the things they are good at, that makes them happy and what they are grateful for. This was a very inspirational session, all the young people loved it!



Diary Dates

- June**
- 04/06—Parents Cyber Safety Talk
 - 06/06—Parents Evening
 - 11/06—Foundation Maths Day
 - 12/06—Middle Department Kids Day Out
 - 13/06—INCFEST Performance
 - 15/06—Friends Summer Fun Day
 - 18/06 + 19/06—Sports Days
 - 22/06—The Mile of Roses Concert
 - WB 24/06—Opportunities Week

- July**
- 02/07 + 03/07—'Milestone Rocks' Performances
 - 04/07—Transition Parents Evening
 - 08/07—Shuffle Up Day
 - 10/07—Middle Department at Beechenhurst
 - 11/07—Leaver's Prom
 - 15/07—Reports Home
 - 16/07—Middle's Got Talent
 - 17/07—Foundation Celebration Assembly
 - 19/07—Leaver's Assembly
 - 19/07—Last Day of Term